

**ORDER DECLARING A LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY
IN AND FOR COSTILLA COUNTY, COLORADO
COVID-19 (Coronavirus 19)**

WHEREAS, Novel Coronavirus (resulting in the disease COVID-19) is a highly contagious virus that originated in China and has since spread to numerous countries around the world including the United States, and,

WHEREAS, COVID-19 can be a serious illness leading to severe complications and even the risk of death in the elderly or those with underlying health issues or compromised immune systems, and,

WHEREAS, On January 30, 2020 the World Health Organization ("WHO") declared the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 a "public health emergency of international concern." On January 31, 2020 the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared the virus a public health Emergency. On March 11, 2020, WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic, pointing to the sustained risk of global spread. On March 10, 2020, the Governor of Colorado declared the presence of COVID-19 in Colorado constitutes a disaster emergency. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency due to COVID-19, and,

WHEREAS, the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.*, provides procedures for statewide and local prevention of, preparation for, response to, and recovery from disasters; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-703(3), a "disaster" is defined to mean "the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural cause or cause of human origin, including but not limited to fire, flood, earthquake, wind, storm, wave action, hazardous substance incident, oil spill or other water contamination requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage, volcanic activity, epidemic/pandemic, air pollution, blight, drought, infestation, explosion, civil disturbance, or hostile military or paramilitary action, or a condition of riot, insurrection, or invasion"; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709, a local disaster may be declared, "only by the principal executive officer of a political subdivision;" and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to §§ 30-10-307 and 308, C.R.S., as amended, the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is the principal executive officer of Costilla County and, in the absence of the chair, the vice-chair is statutorily authorized to act as the principal executive officer; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709(1), the declaration of a local disaster "shall not be continued or renewed for a period in excess of seven days except by or with the consent of the governing board of the political subdivision;" and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709(1), any order declaring, continuing, or terminating a local disaster "shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the county clerk and recorder;" and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709(2), the effect of declaring a local disaster "is to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local and inter-jurisdictional disaster emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans"; and,

WHEREAS, by declaring a local disaster, the Costilla County Disaster Policies are in effect; and,

WHEREAS, because of the COVID19 Pandemic, which occurred or began to occur in Colorado on March 5, 2020, Costilla County and/or jurisdictions within its boundaries, is suffering or has suffered a disaster as defined under C.R.S. § 24-33.5-703(3); and,

WHEREAS, the cost and magnitude of responding to and recovering from the impact of the ensuing disaster event exceeds Costilla County's available resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, by the chair or vice-chair of the Board of County Commissioners, County of Costilla, State of Colorado, that a disaster emergency is declared in and for the County of Costilla, Colorado, beginning on March 17, 2020 and ending on TBD, unless further extended by consent of the BOCC.

ADOPTED on this 17th day of March, 2020



CHAIR, BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



ATTEST:



Najondine Placek
Costilla County Clerk and Recorder